

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed December 20, 2005 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 28-31 are added. Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 9 and 12-31 are pending, the independent claims being 1, 18 and 30. Claims 1 and 18 are amended. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 18 stand objected to for informalities. The ground for objection is believed to be moot in view of the claim amendments.

Claims 1 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as indefinite for use of the phrase "last few seconds."

Contrary to what the Office Action suggests, this expression does enjoy support in the specification, in view of what one of ordinary skill in the art would have understood.

Nevertheless, for clarity of expression, claims 1 and 18 are amended to remove this expression, thereby rendering moot this ground of rejection.

The amendment of claims 1 and 18 finds support in the specification (e.g., [0016]-[0018], with an emphasis on [0018]).

Claims 18-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,594,629 to Basu et al. ("Basu 1").

Claim 18, as amended, recites, ". . . predefining a time duration corresponding to a typical speech utterance; . . . continuously receiving and maintaining a most recent time period of the acoustic energy, said period having said duration. . . ; . . .

activating the automatic speech recognizer . . . while the at least one facial characteristic associated with the speech utterances of the speaker is occurring."

On page 3, the Office Action states, "... given any reasonable reading of Basu et al., it is clear that the buffer is used to delay the processing of audio data until the associated video data can be processed."

The Office Action accordingly suggests that buffer length is based on video data processing speed, rather than on the length of a typical speech utterance.

In addition, Basu 1 fails to disclose or suggest activation of its speech recognizer being temporally dependent upon the occurrence of a facial characteristic associated with the speech utterances (see, e.g., col. 15, lines 19-23; col. 16, lines 53-63). Thus, although the Basu 1 speech recognizer may be supplemented, in some embodiments, by concurrent video detection, Basu 1 fails to disclose or suggest, "... activating the automatic speech recognizer . . . while the at least one facial characteristic associated with the speech utterances of the speaker is occurring." For this reason too, Basu 1 fails to anticipate the present invention as recited in claim 18.

For at least the above reasons, Basu 1 fails to anticipate the present invention as recited in claim 18.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Basu 1 in view of the applicant's allegedly admitted prior art ("AAAPA").

Firstly, the Office Action incorrectly characterizes the "AAAPA." The Office Action states, "The Applicant's admitted prior art discloses to use circular buffers when buffering because they are easy to implement and ensure the buffer stays at a fixed

size." The actual purported well-known statement is "... it is ... known ... to use ring buffers when buffering data because they are easy to implement and ensure the buffer stays at a fixed size." The applicant does not interpret this statement as meaning that buffers are invariably implemented as ring buffers indiscriminately. Instead, a prior need or desire to maintain a fixed amount of data buffered might suggest use of a ring buffer.

Such prior need or desire is absent from Basu 1.

Claim 1, as amended, recites, "... circular buffer for continuously receiving and maintaining a most recent time period of the acoustic response supplied to said audio input device, said time period having a duration corresponding to that predefined for a typical speech utterance. ... the speech recognizer being connected to be responsive to the acoustic detector in response to the signal having the first value."

Claim 1 accordingly distinguishes patentably over Basu 1 for at least the same reasons set forth above with regard to claim 18.

Claims 14-17 and 25-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Basu 1 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,219,640 to Basu et al. ("Basu 2").

Claims 14-17 and 25-27 depend from claims 1 and 18 respectively. Basu 2 cannot make up for the shortcomings of Basu 1.

New claims 28 and 29 find support at least in paragraph 18 in the specification.

New claim 30 finds support in claim 1, and distinguishes over the prior art of record at least due to its recitation, "... continuously receiving and maintaining a most recent time period of said acoustic response to be subject to said detecting by the acoustic

detector, said time period having a duration corresponding to that predefined for a typical speech utterance. . ."

New claim 31 finds support in the specification, at least in paragraphs 18, 25 and 26.


A check is enclosed for \$200.00 in payment of the fee for adding four additional claims in excess of twenty total.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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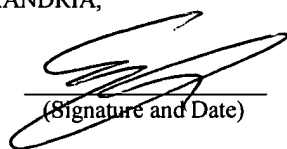

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